

Claims

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method comprising:
 - 2 associating a command with an event at a first device;
 - 3 communicating the command to a second device when the event occurs;
 - 4 causing an action at the second device depending on the command, the
 - 5 action comprising at least one of:
 - 6 disabling an alert mechanism of the second device;
 - 7 enabling the alert mechanism of the second device; and
 - 8 modifying a setting of the alert mechanism of the second device;
 - 9 and
 - 10 if the alert mechanism of the second device is enabled, activating the alert
 - 11 mechanism of the second device in response to an alert being required.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein activating the alert mechanism of the second
 - 2 device in response to the alert being required further comprises activating the alert
 - 3 mechanism in response to:
 - 4 a specific internal event, detected by the second device;
 - 5 a signal requesting the alert, sent from a third device to the second device;
 - 6 and
 - 7 the signal requesting the alert, sent from the first device to the second
 - 8 device.

1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein:
2 the event is a scheduled event on a stored schedule that is accessible by
3 the first device; and
4 associating the command with the event further comprises associating the
5 command with the scheduled event.

1 4. The method of claim 3 wherein determining when the event has occurred further
2 comprises:
3 determining a clock time from a clock;
4 accessing the stored schedule; and
5 determining from the stored schedule whether the scheduled event is
6 associated with the clock time.

1 5. The method of claim 4 wherein associating the command with the event further
2 comprises constructing the command depending on one or more of the clock time
3 and the scheduled event.

1 6. The method of claim 4 wherein causing the action at the second device further
2 comprises sending a signal requesting the alert to the second device.

1 7. The method of claim 5 wherein:
2 the first device is a personal digital assistant;
3 the second device is a cellular telephone;

4 the alert mechanism of the second device comprises a ringer of the cellular
5 telephone;

6 disabling the alert mechanism of the second device comprises muting the
7 ringer of the cellular telephone; and

8 communicating the command comprises transmitting the command from
9 the personal digital assistant to the cellular telephone, over a wireless network.

1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein communicating with the second device further
2 comprises broadcasting a message comprising the command by the first device.

1 9. The method of claim 1 wherein communicating with the second device further
2 comprises:

3 sending a polling message from the second device to the first device;
4 receiving the polling message at the first device; and
5 in response to the polling message, receiving a message comprising the
6 command from the first device.

1 10. The method of claim 1 wherein communicating with the second device further
2 comprises:

3 Sending a request message from the second device to the first device in
4 response to an alert being required; and
5 Receiving a message comprising the command from the first device at the
6 second device in response to the request message.

1 11. The method of claim 1 wherein modifying the setting of the alert mechanism
2 comprises setting the intensity of the alert mechanism of the second device to a
3 specific intensity level including a level corresponding to an imperceptible
4 intensity.

1 12. The method of claim 11 wherein the alert mechanism includes an audible alert,
2 the intensity level of the audible alert is the volume of the audible alert, and the
3 level corresponding to an imperceptible intensity level is a mute level.

1 13. The method of claim 11 wherein the alert mechanism includes an illuminating
2 alert, the intensity level of the illuminating alert is the brightness of the
3 illuminating alert, and the level corresponding to an imperceptible intensity level
4 is darkness.

1 14. The method of claim 1 wherein modifying the setting of the alert mechanism
2 comprises selecting one or more of a plurality of alternative modes of the alert
3 mechanism of the second device.

1 15. The method of claim 14 wherein selecting one or more of the plurality of
2 alternative modes further comprises selecting one or more of:
3 an audible alert mode;
4 a tactile vibration alert mode; and
5 an illuminating alert mode.

1 16. An apparatus comprising:
2 a first device to associate a command with an event and to transmit a
3 message comprising the command;
4 a second device to receive the message and to perform an action
5 depending on the command; and
6 an alert mechanism of the second device with one or more of
7 a capability to be enabled in response to the command;
8 a capability to be disabled in response to the command; and
9 a setting, modifiable in response to the command,
10 wherein the alert mechanism, if the alert mechanism is enabled, is capable of
11 being activated in response to an alert being required.

1 17. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the alert mechanism of the second device may
2 be activated, if the alert mechanism is enabled, in response to one or more of:
3 a specific event detected by the second device;
4 a signal requesting activation of the alert mechanism, sent from a third
5 device; and
6 the signal requesting activation of the alert mechanism, sent from the first
7 device.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 16 further comprising:
2 a storage component accessible by the first device, to store a schedule,
3 wherein the event further comprises a scheduled event stored in the schedule; and

4 a clock to provide a clock time to one or more of the first device and the
5 second device.

1 19. The alert mechanism of claim 16 wherein the setting comprises an adjustable
2 intensity level that may be set to one of many specific levels including an
3 imperceptible level;

1 20. The alert mechanism of claim 19 wherein the alert mechanism comprises an
2 audible alert, the intensity level of the alert mechanism is the volume of the
3 audible alert, and the level corresponding to an imperceptible intensity level is a
4 mute level.

1 21. The alert mechanism of claim 19 wherein the alert mechanism comprises an
2 illuminating alert, the intensity level of the alert mechanism is the brightness of
3 the illuminating alert, and the level corresponding to an imperceptible intensity
4 level is darkness.

1 22. The alert mechanism of claim 16 wherein the setting comprises a selection of one
2 or more of a plurality of alternative modes of the alert mechanism.

1 23. The alert mechanism of claim 22 wherein the selection of one or more of the
2 plurality of alternative modes further comprises the selection of one or more of:
3 an audible alert mode;

4 a tactile alert mode; and
5 an illuminating alert mode.

1 24. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the first device and the second device are
2 physically integrated into a single unit.

1 25. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein:
2 the first device is a personal digital assistant;
3 the second device is a cellular telephone;
4 the alert mechanism is a ringer of the cellular telephone.

1 26. A machine accessible medium on which is stored data that when accessed by a
2 machine causes it to perform the method of claim 1.

1 27. A machine accessible medium on which is stored data that when accessed by a
2 machine causes it to perform the method of claim 5.

1 28. A machine accessible medium on which is stored data that when accessed by a
2 machine causes it to perform the method of claim 7.